



MEL'S FUND

Mel's Fund was created to honor the life of the late Mel Brunner, who was a passionate animal welfare advocate and volunteer. Deeply committed to ending the senseless euthanasia of adoptable animals in our community, he was particularly interested in educating children about responsible pet guardianship and in supporting programs that foster the human/animal bond. "Mel's goal when he worked with animal organizations was to help both animals and children" states Maria Brunner, Mel's wife. "He believed that, by learning to love and care for animals, we can learn to love and care for each other. Our work in this area was something we did together and it was magic." The Mel's Fund is designed to assist Friends of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (FACCs) fund Maricopa County Animal Care & Control's (AC&C) youth education and outreach efforts to the community.

Mel's Fund will support Teaching Love and Compassion (TLC), a series of innovative violence prevention and humane education programs for youth offered by Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (AC&C). This program strives to be an integral component in preventing violence between humans and other animals. Although the program alone cannot end violence, of which the causes are complex and multi-faceted, it does provide some of the most important pieces of the solution. These include developing and reinforcing values and behaviors such as compassion, empathy, responsibility, and respect for all living things.

TLC targets youth deemed to be "at risk" by human service and school-based professionals. Programs are age appropriate, have academic and therapeutic components, may include live animal contact, and are customized according to the needs of the participants. The AC&C Youth Education TLC programs work to teach young people about their connection and responsibility to fellow living things. The TLC programs focus on three vital elements to achieve this overall goal:

- Interrupting or preventing the cycle of violence by identifying at-risk youth and intervening with classroom opportunities to work directly with shelter animals
- Staying safe around animals by understanding the animals' perspective, including animal communication and relationships
- Encouraging and recognizing the connection between people and pets.

Donations to Mel's Fund can be mailed to:

Friends of Animal Care & Control

P.O. Box 80739

Phoenix, Arizona 85060-0739

Please make checks out to Friends of Animal Care & Control and note that the donation is directed to Mel's Fund on the memo portion of the check.

For more information on Mel's Fund and Friends of Animal Care & Control, please contact FACCs at (602) 840-2843. For more on the TLC program contact AC&C at (602) 506-3471.

Friends of Animal Care & Control

P.O. Box 80739 ♦ Phoenix, Arizona 85060-0739 ♦ (602) 840-2843 ♦ FACCs1@aol.com

FACCs is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control.

All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. ID # 86-1008549

